

# diaLOG

30.12

The Student Community Newspaper of George Brown College, Toronto

## FEATURE

Cover: Saukrates bopped over to George Brown and during a lunch hour concert charmed the multitudes. More pix in the city page 12  
Boni Barter and Paul Dowling both offer their different views on homelessness, check our feature pages 6 & 7.

## NEWS

Catch up on all the latest college scandals. Has our Visual Identity crisis worsened? See page 5 for all the answers.



Digital image by Joseph Alleganza

## VARSITY

Melanie Denheyer catches us up with all the latest news on varsity sports. Page 11. How about our Men's Basketball Team!

## MORE

Peer Program page 3

Modeling Scam Alert

page 7

Editorial page 5

Feature stories page 8-9

In the city page 12

elvisLOG page 14

## What Price do we pay for Hunger?

by Allan Stokell

**T**onight there are children going to bed in this city who are hungry. In this city, one of the richest in Canada and bragged as being one of the best places in the world to live, we don't care enough to make sure that children are fed.

Yes, you might say, but there are food banks. Food banks were begun to alleviate short-term needs. Even today most food banks only give enough food for a three day period.

How is it that we have got to the point that hunger and homelessness exist at crisis proportion?

I say it is the green-eyed monster called greed. Politicians promise the middle class tax

cuts without fully disclosing just how they will save the money.

Well I know how it works. Over the past fifteen years, the middle class has been slowly eroding. Some have become rich, but many have fallen off the bottom rung of the middle class ladder and into the dismal pit of poverty.

Peter is a fine example. In his thirties he was a successful businessman. Then he had a few set backs. A tussle with Revenue Canada cleaned out most of his savings. A messy divorce took his share of the house and a bottle of gin took the rest.

When I first met Peter a dozen years ago, he was successful and very sure of himself. Even when things began to slide, he would cockily confront his bank

manager inquiring about the state of his overdraft.

I met Peter recently. He was standing at the corner of Parliament and Queen panhandling. He did not recognize me. A combination of not really looking at people and drug induced memory loss had taken their toll.

This issue we explore the true costs of our Common Sense Revolution and how the reckless tax cuts the Tories promised have caused undue hardships for the middle class and the poor.

Premier Mike Harris will be calling an election soon. I ask you to consider the damage done by his henchmen to this city before you get out and vote.

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# brown, GEORGE

## DAAlog Version 8.0



chosen several months ago. What does that mean? Nothing, they're just trendy colours.

Don't forget your vitamins. There seems to be an epidemic of colds and flu running rampant at the college. Many students and staff have been sick for weeks now. So remember to wash your hands. Who knows who touched that door handle before you.

Oops. There's another bug going around that you should be aware of, the college has another computer virus - a variant of the Dr. Diet Mountain Dew that infected all of GBC back in December. To check if your computer is infected, right-click on the "My Computer" icon on your desktop, and select "Properties". If the registered owner is "Dr Diet Mountain Dew" then you need to have your system cleaned. Fortunately, the latest version of the McAfee anti-virus will clean it. (However, you will still need to edit your Registry to remove all traces of the virus. Better ask a computer-literate friend to help with the registry stuff.)

Speaking of computers, I have heard from several reliable sources that the college will be improving the network lab for the Information Systems program. Excellent! A bit too late for those of us graduating next month, but definitely a big move in the right direction for improving the T-128 program.

If you'd like to discuss anything, feel free to drop in to see me at the Casa Loma SA office, send me an e-mail at [sflett@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:sflett@gbrownc.on.ca) (I LOVE e-mail!), or leave me a voice-mail at 415-2900 #83221.

A semi-regular column by Stephen Flett, your DAA (Director of Academic Affairs) at the Student Association. Or whatever random thoughts are meandering through Steve's head.

am I blue? You bet. Everyone in their final semester seems to suffer from a bit of malaise as graduation approaches, and the prospects for work look slim. Just when you need to be focusing on the fast approaching "real" life, your professors pile on mounds of "busy" work. At least, that's what it seems like to many students. Or maybe I'm just being paranoid. Don't despair. The school work will be over soon. April 23rd is getting closer and closer.

How is George Brown doing compared to other colleges? Not too bad according to the KPI results that I saw posted recently. GBC scored close to average on all indicators. KPI stands for Key Performance Indicators - these are used to judge college performance in several important areas, including employment rate of graduates, graduate satisfaction, employer satisfaction, and student satisfaction.

The college now has a new logo and colours, which you may have seen in their recent ad blitz on billboards and subway cards, and also in the new Con-Ed calendar. Interesting. It seems that the college chose almost the identical colours to the new Student Association logo

## "To work or not to work...that is not the question..." Join Our Peer Program Now!

by Miriam Baichman - Coordinator  
Peer Programs, Student Affairs.

As we come to a close of this academic year, I would like to present some stimulating and relevant research which may entice you to rush to work in our Peer Program for the upcoming Academic year 99/2000.

Recent research has shown that working on-campus can be a very powerful retention strategy. In fact student involvement on campus is one of the top four factors listed by students as influencing their satisfaction with the collegiate experience. Students reported that on-campus work tended to provide them with a sense of belonging and a feeling of being on the inside, in "the know".

On-campus work is also a strong factor which influences future employment. Research has shown that former student workers tend to earn more money than their counterparts the first five years after graduation. On-campus employment has also been cited as a key factor in finding work. In a survey conducted at San Francisco State

University, 1996 graduates attributed job/internship/volunteer experience as an undergraduate as the number one runaway factor which helped them find post graduation employment. Work experience (54%) was rated higher than GPA (2.6%), major job search skills (3.5%), personality & skill (14.2%), choice of major (10.4%), knowing someone influential (8.3%) or other (5.9%) as having an impact on employment.

In a survey of 1200 Human Resources professionals of UPS (United Parcel Services) 94% indicated that given two applicants with equal academic qualifications, they would select the candidate with part-time work experience. The HR professionals reported that former student employees tended to produce better work, accept supervision better, demonstrate better team skills, manage their time better and have more realistic expectations.

Need we say more? Find out about a variety of positions available for the upcoming year on each campus. Come to the counselling office at Casa Loma Room C221, St James Room 578C and Nightingale Room 105 and pick up an application!



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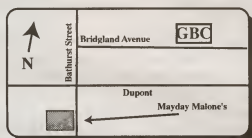
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The student community newspaper of George Brown College

Editorial office:

Room 159A  
St. James Campus  
200 King Street East  
Toronto Ontario  
M5A 3W8

(416) 415-2710  
FAX: (416) 415-2491

Casa Loma Office:  
Room 263

Allan Stokell  
Editor-in-Chief  
[allan.dialog@mailexcite.com](mailto:allan.dialog@mailexcite.com)

Amy Kim  
Student Adviser  
[amyhkim@rockemail.com](mailto:amyhkim@rockemail.com)

Jerry Grymek  
Advertising Manager  
[jerry.ads@mailexcite.com](mailto:jerry.ads@mailexcite.com)

Monique Kavanagh  
Student Services Manager  
[mkavanagh@gbrownc.on.ca](mailto:mkavanagh@gbrownc.on.ca)

Roxanne Chin-Choy  
Office Manager  
[daydreamer20@lycos.com](mailto:daydreamer20@lycos.com)  
[smallsparrow@mailexcite.com](mailto:smallsparrow@mailexcite.com)

Margaret Sin  
Casa Loma Campus  
[blueocean21@hotmail.com](mailto:blueocean21@hotmail.com)

Joseph Allengraza  
Artist

Gordon Holder  
Malcolm Stoddard  
Technical Advisers

Levon Beharry  
Shazia Khokhar  
Shareen Barker  
Alda Kang  
Layout

George Vajna  
Entertainment Editor

Boni Barter  
Miriam Baichman  
Melanie Denheyer  
Paul Dowling  
Stephen Flett  
Janet Morrison

Bill Reid  
Chris Tessaro  
Nolan Young  
Contributors

Mike Cunliff  
Brian Sharpe  
Distribution



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# SHISEIDO















# HOMELESSNESS:

Two writers explore one of the most pressing issues of our time

Not a disaster...a disgrace!

**J**ack Layton wants to have the homelessness problem in Toronto declared "a national disaster." I really like Jack, but like most underdog politicians he is big on rhetoric and short on solutions.

Opening up the armories for people to sleep in may be an emergency precaution but it is certainly far from any form of solution. It seems like another ruse to give the Ontario and municipal governments another public relations coup while still not providing any permanent resolution. It forces the federal government to take on a complex problem that has been created by the arrogance and greed of the so-called wealthiest province in the country.

The obvious excuse is that there is not enough new housing stock to house the homeless is only so much horse manure. The last time there was a "housing crunch" I was the Security Supervisor for a particular condominium building. Many of the rental units were VACANT. Why? Because they were too expensive for families on welfare, unemployment or employed at less than \$60,000/year. The rents were between 1,200-1,600 per month. There was no real housing crisis for those able to pay huge rents (still isn't—in fact, check out the "Renters' News", in that league renters are often offered a month or two free rent on a year's lease).

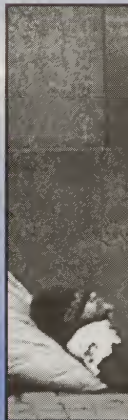
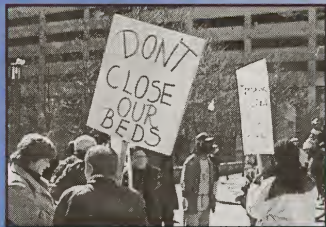
So let us move away from the notion that there are no rental units—there are a great many more than anyone wants

Following the above, the government could force all landlords, who now can raise the price to new renters as high as they choose, to give 10% of their buildings up (if they have more than 10

Add to the mixture that in Mr. Tom Jacobson's riding it is unlawful to have a basement apartment even though many of the middle class residents would like the extra income providing what the city is claiming to be so desperately in need of. Mr. J's complaint is that there wouldn't be enough "parking". How many low-income renters does he think actually own a vehicle? This is a glaringly obvious case of the "Not In My Backyard" syndrome of wanting to ghettoize low-income renters. Whether he likes it or not, this is now a "megacity" with a catastrophic homelessness problem and one riding should not be

Why is it that in the 1950's, when Israel didn't have a pot to piss in, they were able to house admirably thousands and thousands of refugees who flooded into the country every month while still fighting off Arab intervention yet Canada with a vast wealth of resources available cannot?

I'm sure at least some of the suggestions could be workable solutions if the entire government ever decides to stop slapping band-aids over gaping wounds. It's time the federal, provincial and city governments got serious and started doing some surgery.





# Homelessness is now normal!

**O**n any walk through the streets of Toronto, you can expect to be asked for spare change several times. You also can expect to see the visible signs of poverty and homelessness on the street. People sleeping in doorways or on the heating grates. People lining

In January, the Mayor's Action Task Force on Homelessness chaired by United Way President Anne Golden, released its report. After a year of research and consultation, the Task Force has lots of statistics:

►37% of children under 12 in Toronto live in poverty.

On February 24th the Daily Bread Food Bank marked its fifteenth Anniversary by releasing a report called Still Hungry After all These Years. Again, the statistics are there:

Homelessness and hunger don't just happen. The increase in poverty, hunger and homelessness in Toronto can be directly traced to the decisions of the government of Ontario and of Canada. Both levels of Government decided earlier in the 1990's that they would not spend our money on the production of affordable housing. No new subsidized housing has been built since 1995.

At the same time, both governments have reduced or eliminated the supports that are provided to low income people. Welfare rates were cut by 21%, rules were changed to make it harder to get on welfare and easier to get cut off. Special programs like first and last months rent have been eliminated. The new Tenant Protection Act reduces the protection available to tenants against unbearable rent increases and arbitrary evictions.

Reports, like that by the Golden Task Force, identify government policy as a factor in the increase in poverty, homelessness and hunger. And still the government continues with its policy of cutting social programs in the name of deficit cutting and reducing taxes. It's not surprising: it is quite normal.

We expect to see an election called in Ontario soon. Maybe homelessness, poverty and hunger will be issues in the election. Maybe a party will run on a platform of ensuring that every citizen of Ontario has a decent place to live and has enough to eat. Maybe a political leader will stand up and promise that, if elected, she or he will take immediate steps to eliminate homelessness, to close down the food banks, to turn our places of worship into places of worship rather than emergency shelters and to put an end to child poverty in Ontario. And maybe that political leader will receive the overwhelming support of voters and, once elected, will carry out the promises made in the campaign.

That would be surprising. It is not normal.

*Paul Dowling has worked as a housing policy advisor for many years and was formerly the Executive Director of an organization that provided homes for people who have experienced chronic homelessness. He is currently a consultant on Housing and Social Policy. He can be reached at 698-8425 or pdowling@jdirect.com*

- 26,000 people used hostels in 1996, 3200 in any night
- the fastest growing groups of hostel users are young people under 18 and families with children.
- there were 5300 homeless children in 1996
- more than 100,000 people are waiting for assisted

The most surprising thing about these reports is that we are not surprised... or alarmed. This is normal. Poverty and homelessness are all around us, the reality is well known. And yet, it is all quite normal. When we hear that there is going to be a big food drive at Easter because the Food Bank has empty shelves, we are not surprised; there is always a food drive at Easter (and Thanksgiving and Christmas). When we attend a dance or other social event, we are not at all surprised to be asked to bring a can or a box for the food bank; it is quite normal.

When we hear that a homeless person has frozen to death on our streets, we are saddened and upset, but we are not surprised; people freeze to death on the streets of Toronto every winter: it is quite normal.

The Golden Report stated that the responsibility for finding long term permanent solutions to homelessness is shared by all of us, including all three levels of government: Municipal, Provincial and Federal. The report says that the costs of implementing solutions are affordable. In its 105 recommendations the Golden Report outlines specific actions that can be undertaken by three levels of government, that will have a real impact on homelessness in Toronto.

On February 16th Canada's Finance Minister, Paul Martin released the Federal Budget outlining how the Government of Canada will spend our money now that the deficit is under control. No money is specifically targeted to addressing homelessness or hunger in Canada. On hearing the budget, Ontario Premier Mike Harris said that, in light of the fact that the Federal Government is not spending any money to respond to homelessness, he will need to reconsider whether his government will do anything.

We are not surprised. It is quite normal.



## VANCOUVER (CUP)

But the Golden Key Honor Society, an Atlanta-based non-profit organization that boasts the membership of several Canadian universities, is one exception.

The University of British Columbia joined the society last fall partly on the urging of its president, Martha Piper, who sent letters endorsing the organization to about 3,200 of the school's top students.

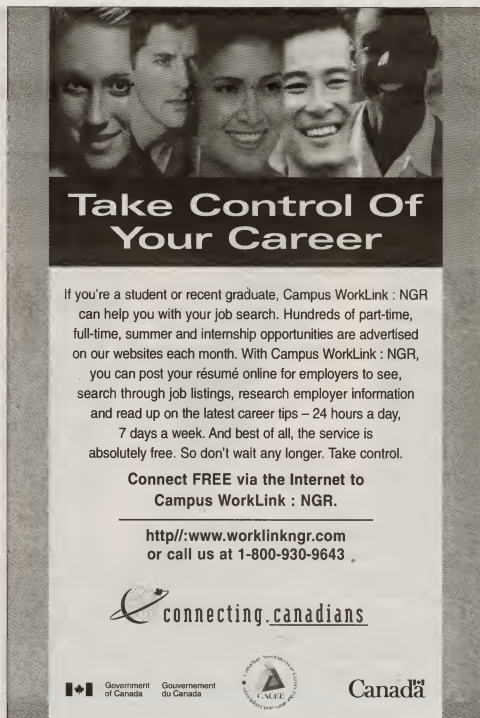
The organization's submission to the U.S. Internal Revenue Service, obtained by a student paper, shows it spent just \$289,461 US on scholarships, or less than five per cent of its total expenditures for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1997.

Valerie MacVane, general manager of the Vancouver Better Business Bureau, says withholding such information is highly unusual for non-profit organizations. She and the president of UBC's Golden Key chapter, Fahreen Dossa, have also expressed concern over the society's spending practices. Dossa said she had expected scholarships would account for around 60 per cent of the organization's total expenditures. She also pointed to the high salaries paid to Golden Key directors. The organization spent \$1,822,837 U.S. on salaries and other employee benefits in 1997 and its executive director, James Lewis, received \$247,600 U.S.

Kari Sivam, a former UBC student who is now Golden Key's Assistant Director of International Development, said that a recent study of for-profit as

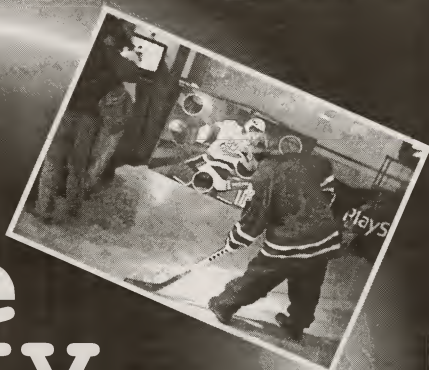
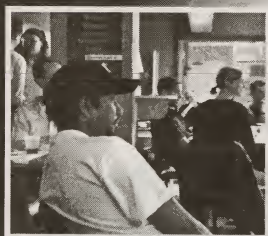
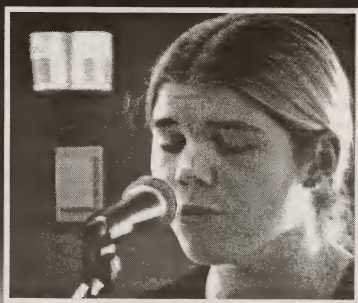
"On the one hand, you can say that UBC students got ripped off," she said. "On the other hand, it (joining the organization) wasn't forced or highly recommended."

Aside from Piper's letter, some students were encouraged to join the organization by a member of the university's awards and financial aid office who recruited the first few students after being approached by Golden Key. Carol Gibson, director of the university's awards and financial aid, says the committee charged with looking into whether to join the organization reviewed all information available about Golden Key. "Certainly the claims that they have made to what the money is used for are up front," she said.









# in the city





# For Your Information

by Bill Reid

Recently, a friend of mine who works as an account officer at the main branch of one of the major banks—a friend who at any other time, especially when his employer has announced another round of record-breaking profits, complains about being overworked and underpaid—called me to spread his jubilation at having received a promotion. Apparently, a position had become available in another department of the branch, and his talents (in his own mind considerable) had been recognized. He would now be working a full twenty metres from where he had previously been working, for a salary which was not much higher but was, in the bank's convoluted compensation scheme, in a salary "band" that promised him greater future advancement and was shared by people he considered more his equals.

My friend told me how he had called his mother to tell her (had he called her to tell her of his affair with a married fellow employee?), how she had cried (as she might also have done if she'd heard about the affair), and most significantly, how he had begun his illustrious career cleaning toilets!

Since hearing my friend gloat about what he perceived to be his spectacular climb from the lowly task of cleaning toilets to an elevated position with lots of responsibility and authority (to do what? refuse loans?), I've thought a lot about his perceptions of himself and others. My first real job was working maintenance in a department store, which included cleaning toilets in both men's and women's washrooms and a bunch of other stuff that apparently doesn't visualize like cleaning toilets, but I rarely have occasion to mention it. Why would I? There was nothing wrong with that job, and I'd go back to it today without shame if circumstances required. What do I do

today (and what does my friend do, for that matter) that juxtaposes so dramatically with more menial forms of work?

A woman I know worked in Switzerland one summer, in part to experience the glamour of the European way of life. Her glamorous job was in a small hotel, and her daily chores included cleaning 70 toilets...and all the doorknobs...and the floors...and the ceilings...and the street in front of the hotel, the last apparently some sort of municipal requirement. Now, she got a taste of what a cleaning job is all about! I would speculate that cleaning the ceilings was the high point of her workday in more senses than the literal, because it was the only part of it she spent off her knees. However, she doesn't go around bragging about the 70 toilets and the street thing every time she scores a professional achievement today, although she has scored many. At the same time, she thoroughly enjoyed her Swiss experience, and figures it gave her an introduction to real life that serves her well in everything else she does, and reminds her that she can always return to that sort of work without worrying that her bones or her ego are too frail for it.

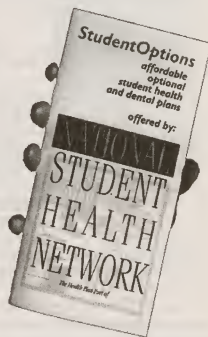
I hope my friend at the bank enjoys his new position. I'll bet in the long run he doesn't consider it as magnificent as when he first got it. In any event, he's in no position to look down on anyone else who performs an honest job, or who wants to and is unable to find one, although he clearly does just that. I don't personally think he's come as far as he thinks he has. Is he really making as valuable and genuine a contribution to society as the person who cleans the toilets in his office building? Maybe he should look for a chance to clean a few toilets, just to make sure.

## Need Health or Dental Coverage? Need Options?

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Now I've been thinking about my biological clock a lot recently. Mine is a bit different in that it is analog and has an old fashioned alarm. When bells go off, I know that means something.

I was reading about the Millennium and how lots of people wanted Millennium babies, so I hit the net and guess what? You better start grunting because If you want a bouncing bundle of baby (BBB)

Now keeping this in mind, I gotta find someone who at least looks like Elvis and I figure that the best place to find them is on April 2nd outside Maple Leaf Gardens.

You see, on April 2nd, 1957, Elvis gave the performance of his life to a packed and noisy Maple Leaf Gardens. Ever since then on the anniversary of the occasion, multitudes have flocked to this Elvis shrine to see if the king will appear. One year a bunch of teenage girls claimed they saw Elvis in the sky over the gardens. The following year there were 500 thousand people there to see the vision of the King. The numbers have dropped off a bit in the last few years but I figure that is the place to be if I want to be receiving a conceiving.

See you there. I'll be the one carrying the Elvis bust.



## NEW PUB MANAGER

If you are a regular at the Student Association offices, you are bound to know Helena Miekus. Helena has been the heart, soul and brains behind much of the success of the volunteer and coop programmes at the SA offices. As Office Manager she has often been the first person a new student sees when they visit the SA offices at St. James Campus.

Helena has just been appointed as interim Pub Manager. This means she will be responsible for the running of the student pubs for the remainder of the year.

"This is an exciting new challenge and I warmly invite all GBC students to join us at one of the pubs to let us know how we can make improvements," says Helena. Already planning is under way for next year, so if your club, group or organization would like to sponsor a pub night (such as the Dialog Beer Tasting Contest) contact Helena at 415-2721.

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